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Ste. Genevieve Chamber of Commerce Granting Award In Recognition of Carnahan's Leadership In Development of New Bourbon Port

ST. LOUIS - In recognition of his leadership in helping develop a new port that will create over 200 local jobs, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-03) will receive the Ste. Genevieve Chamber of Commerce's 2010 Economic Development Award.

The award, which will be presented to Carnahan at a ceremony Friday evening, is in recognition of the role he played in the creation of a port that will serve businesses in Ste. Genevieve and Perry Counties, providing facilities to support economic growth and job creation throughout the region. The creation of the port will create 150 full-time construction jobs during the course of construction, as well as over 75 full-time permanent jobs once the port is up and running.

"As we emerge from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, we need to focus our efforts on getting people back to work and building long-term economic strength for Missouri communities," Carnahan said. **"I am humbled to receive this award, but thrilled that it is in recognition for this port project. It is one of the things I am most proud of in my career, because the economic benefits will be felt for many generations to come."**

In 2008, Carnahan helped secure \$500,000 in federal funding to help kick-start the project. Since then, he has worked to secure additional funds, including \$1 million in Recovery Act funds for loading dock improvements and site development.

The New Bourbon Regional Port Authority was created to plan and carry out port development within Ste. Genevieve and Perry Counties to service businesses in both counties and provide the facilities to support additional economic growth and job creation for the counties.

"We're starting to see some signs that the economy is turning around, but we must do more," Carnahan said. "There are too many Missouri families still worried about whether they can pay the mortgage, afford to send their kids to college, if they're ever going to have enough money saved to retire. Until those folks feel more secure, getting people back to work will remain my number one priority."

The award will be presented Friday, April 23, 2010 at the Ste. Genevieve Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet.

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